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EVIDENCE OF A LOCAL SUBSIDENCE IN THE INTERIOR

In the spring of 1883, I made a survey to build a levee along the Wabash River on the west side of Parke county, Indiana, for a length of twelve miles. I took the levels with great care, and checked on the river water every half mile to guard against errors. The great flood of the preceding winter had left its high water mark very plain on the trees in the bottoms, and I checked on them also. I cut some sixty bench marks on the trees in running the levels, some of which are still intact. The lower end of the levee was built square across the narrow bottom to the bluff and crossed a bayou through which the flood water ran off of the bottoms into the river. We built an automatic flood-gate across this bayou so as to shut out river, but let out inside water from breaks above. The gates were hung to heavy brick walls built on timber foundations three feet thick, and deeply bedded below the bottom of the bayou. A bench mark was cut on a bur oak tree near the walls, and the level of the walls was taken when built. I had charge of the maintenance and repair of this levee four years from its building, and had frequent occasion to run the level over the top to restore breaks, for it was built only twenty-one feet above low water, whereas the great floods rise twenty-eight feet. I set the grade stakes for the contractors to work to, and in doing so ran the level over the ground again. I speak of all this to show that my leveling was correct, as so many levelings would detect any error, and none were found to exceed a half inch. I can say positively that the levels were correct in 1883.

This spring (1901) the levee was to be raised three feet, making it twenty-four feet above low water, under a new law of the state, but including only the lower seven miles. I leveled the work again, and found bench marks again intact except the

lower (south) mile and a quarter, which showed a decline southward amounting to ten inches at the lower (south) end, as shown by the mark on the bur oak and top of the gate walls. I went back to the C. & E. I. railroad bridge at Clinton, two and a half miles above the south end, and started my level from a mark known to be in tally with the level of 1883, and ran carefully over the work again, and it varied from the one made just before only a quarter of an inch. And the bench mark on the bur oak and the top of the gate walls had gone down ten inches ($\frac{8.3}{100}$ of a foot). I was right in 1883 and I am right now. What caused this sink, or subsidence? I can think of nothing so likely to cause it as the Charleston earthquake. The wave of that earthquake somewhere south of us changed from westward and went northward along the Wabash.

JOHN T. CAMPBELL.

ROCKVILLE, INDIANA,
July 20, 1901.